



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Dulles:

It was most thoughtful of you to send me a memorandum on the Central Intelligence Agency's Language Development Program. I have read this with great interest, and congratulate you warmly on the progress you have made since February 1957. The introduction of a meaningful incentive system was a brilliant idea which I hope will be initiated eventually by other agencies.

Sure of their interest, I have forwarded your memorandum to those specialists in the Office of Education who are most concerned in the foreign language aspects of Public Law 85-864. As you know, one of the explicit purposes of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 is to serve the needs of Government. Our specialists have interpreted the intention of the Congress as meaning, not only present, but also future needs. Obviously, in the predicting of future needs, a close cooperation between the Office of Education and the Central Intelligence Agency is indispensable. It is reassuring, therefore, that you have already seen fit to take this first step.

I was particularly interested in some of the remarks in your covering letter of November 27th. You will know that I share your views on the great importance of foreign language and area training. I note also your emphasis on the improvement of language instruction at the undergraduate level. As you doubtless realize, the Act does not directly provide support for this except in terms of the critical languages, as determined by the Commissioner, and in terms of research on language learning in general. The emphasis in Title VI is on language teaching in the elementary and secondary schools, and on advanced training for language and area people. The problem of improving instruction in the "usual" languages at the undergraduate level, therefore, may well deserve our future study.

My renewed thanks for your interest and your helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary

Hon. Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.